

Abstract of the Disclosure

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR ADJUSTING THE PRE-LOAD OF A
SPRING

A pre-loaded spring mechanism includes a
5 piezoelectric device and a pre-loaded spring operatively
connected to the device. A voltage source is coupled to
the piezoelectric device to apply a voltage to the
device. The applied voltage causes the piezoelectric
device to undergo a physical dimensional change that
10 changes the pre-load of the spring. The pre-load of the
spring is adjusted by selectively varying the voltage
applied to the piezoelectric device.